

1874. The ferruginous lamellae and light brown spores indicate that this should be placed in *Pholiota* rather than in *Stropharia*. The species was originally referred to *Stropharia* with much doubt, as is shown by the note accompanying the description.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

REVIEWS

A Course in Botany and Pharmacognosy.*

This book is intended in part to supplement a lecture course in pharmacy though primarily it is designed as a laboratory guide and manual. A work of this character is of unusual interest and concern, coming at a time when there is too often a tendency, in order to forward commercial interests, to substitute inferior and cheaper drugs for those of higher grade or through harmless adulterations to render them uncertain in action and so jeopardize life. It can hardly be questioned that the training of the pharmacist to-day often fails to fit him to discriminate in many cases as to the purity and excellence of the drugs which he is using, and there is frequently to be noted a tendency on the part of the student to be impatient of training along this line of work, holding that a superficial knowledge of the properties and characters of drugs is quite sufficient so long as it enables him to meet the requirements of the law. The widespread adulteration of drugs in this city recently discovered by the Health Board is a case in hand. This conscienceless bartering of human safety for money, however, is perhaps less worthy of attention than the fact that the druggists were ignorant of the character of their stock.

Professor Kraemer has divided his subject into two sections, an introductory part of 100 pages and the main portion dealing with pharmacognosy. The introduction gives a succinct account of the inner and outer morphology of the plant body and comprises a review of the cell forms and contents together with the

* Henry Kraemer, A Course in Botany and Pharmacognosy. Svo. Pp. 1-384. f. 1-128. New York, G. E. Stechert, 1902. \$3.50.

morphology and function of the root, stem, leaf and flower. This portion of the work is supplemented with 128 figures which unfortunately have been placed at the end of the book. For the most part the illustrations are excellent and would have added materially to the value of the book if incorporated in the text. Some of the cuts, particularly those on the root, are among the best that we remember to have seen, and it should be mentioned that in many instances the figures illustrate the character of the drugs as well as morphological characters.

This first portion of the book will naturally receive the most attention and criticism from botanists. It is inevitable, in so brief a consideration of this broad subject, that statements will be made which require qualifications that must be left for the lecture room. This, in part, also accounts for the rather mechanical treatment of the subject though it would appear that more attention might have been given to the significance of morphological characters. However, the view point of the author must be respected in this consideration and only so much of botanical science is presented as his experience has shown to be necessary to fit the student for an intelligent and scientific understanding of drugs.

Part II., Pharmacognosy, comprises the larger and more important portion of the work and to this attention and criticism should largely be directed. An introductory chapter on collecting, preservation, admixtures, valuations, etc., of drugs is especially timely since gross carelessness and ignorance in these matters is too often seen among druggists. The remaining chapters deal with Crude Vegetable Drugs, Powdered Vegetable Drugs, and Reagents. Under the first head are discussed the seeds, underground organs, stems, flowers, fruits, leaves and exudations which are of medicinal value. The powdered drugs are classified according to color and under Reagents practical methods of testing and studying are given.

The treatment accorded this portion of the work is worthy of high commendation. Each subject, as seeds, leaves, powders, etc., is systematically arranged and keys are provided for classification and identification. Following this scheme of classifica-

tion there are brought together under each drug the data relating to its constituents, adulterations, botanical and commercial origin, etc. The key for the identification of powdered drugs is of especial importance and will prove of great value to pharmacists. While essentially the scheme originally published in the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1898, and for which the Ebert and Maisch prize was awarded to Professor Kraemer, it will be noted that it has been substantially recast and elaborated and appears for the first time accompanied by a key and index.

This systematic description of drugs after the manner of the botanical systematist, appearing for the first time in a work of this kind is the most important and valuable feature of the book, and will prove to have great advantage over the plan of treatment given in pharmacopoeias.

CARLTON C. CURTIS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1902

This meeting was held at the College of Pharmacy ; Dr. Rusby in the chair ; 12 persons present.

The deaths of two members were reported by the secretary, of the Very Reverend E. A. Hoffman, June 17, 1902, and of Dr. T. F. Allen, December 5, 1902. Resolutions in honor of the latter, a vice-president and founder of the Torrey Club, are in preparation, and his funeral at St. Thomas' Church on December 8, was attended by representatives of the Club.

One new member was elected, Mrs. Frank E. Curtis, 78 Orange Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The scientific program followed. The first paper was by Professor A. D. Selby, on "Cultures of the Grape-rot Fungus," with exhibition of culture-tubes containing its fully developed perithecia, spore-sacs and spores, derived from pycnospores upon the grape leaf. This fungus has menaced the grape industry in Ohio, producing rotting of fruit and spotting of leaf.